

Delegate Byrnes mentioned the interests of the people. I think the interests of the people are best served by the best candidates possible. I object to a qualified person who is thinking of running for local office having to make up his mind partly on the basis of whether the party he is in is going to have a good year or not at the top level, be it the state or presidential. I think this should not be part of the decision of a candidate to run for local office.

There is also the problem of finances, not from the point of view of what it costs the State, but from the point of view of what it costs to be elected. If you are running for office, you all know you need to get on television, get in the papers, buy ads, and all these things cost a great deal of money.

You also know that there is only so much political money that can be raised at one time. Obviously at the top of the ticket, when you have an election at the state or federal level, most of the money is being contributed there. The candidate running at the local level is hard put to find finances to finance his own campaign and put himself across. Therefore, he is either swept in with the top of the ticket, or a good man loses because he is on the wrong side of that election.

People have referred on this floor today to the voluntary organizations and the interest of being kind to them and not overworking them. I am also interested in the voters, and I know there is voter confusion when there are several levels of government on one ballot, and more names. People are confused when there are two districts for one election. So in the interests of the voters also, I urge the separation of these elections and the defeat of this amendment.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Does anyone desire to speak for the amendment?

The Chair recognizes Delegate Burdette.

DELEGATE BURDETTE: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak for this amendment on the principle that in many of the counties throughout the State there is very great doubt, especially in the metropolitan areas, whether we could have a large turn-out in a purely county election.

I support the amendment also because, speaking entirely as a non-partisan, I believe in the building of the two-party system in this State, and I believe in the principle that we should expect county officials who are successful in our State to become

identified as candidates for higher level positions in the State.

I believe it immensely important that county officials be able to work closely with state officials, and that there needs to be a very great cooperative understanding at this level. I think we attain these ends most successfully by having them run together in a general discussion of state and local issues.

There is also the issue of expense, which I could regard as secondary but not inconsequential. The proposal to have an off-year election for local county officials will involve very substantial expense to the taxpayer with the very great risk that a comparatively small number of the taxpayers will turn out.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Does anyone desire to speak against?

Delegate Boyce.

DELEGATE BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I was pleased that Delegate Gallagher saw fit to have the Baltimore delegation meet.

Basically we have a physical impossibility on our voting machines to combine our elections either way. If we take the questions of loads on the ballot in the general election and put that with the questions of the State and then combine the local offices with the state and federal offices we literally cannot do it. We say to you, as a result of this one thing, we do think that the Baltimore City election should be kept separate.

At the same time, none of us in Baltimore City is in any way attempting to say that such and such should be done in the counties as far as their elections are concerned. I was very much taken with what my fellow district delegate, John Byrnes, had to say. I really would have liked to have voted with him, but it seems apparent to me that if you want to make sure that Baltimore City maintains the odd-year election, then I think we are going to have to vote against each of the amendments as I see them coming to the floor. Consequently I am asking that the Baltimore City delegation be understanding for this is something that the counties may well wish to amend in some other way.

As far as we are concerned, I would like to see us, and I shall do so, vote with the majority committee recommendation.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): The Chair recognizes Delegate Bard for the amendment.